(4) As part of the export programme, they have proposed additional investment in product development.

(5) There has been significant devaluation of Indian rupee which would also substantially inflate the project cost in rupee terms.

Coca Cola Proposal

375. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Coca Cola company applied for setting up a plant in the Export Processing Zone at NOIDA;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in clearing its application; and

(c) what is the status of the NOIDA proposal and how it is related to the other proposal put forward by the company ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) 16th November, 1988.

(b) and (c) Coca Cola Company submitted a proposal to set up a unit in NOIDA Export Processing Zone for manufacture of ingredients for soft drink concentrate alongwith its proposal for additional exports and setting up of another non FIRA unit in Madras Export Processing Zone for manufacture of items based on tea extracts. It has since been decided to reject the proposal of this Company.

376. [*Transferred to the 20 March 1990*]

Curb on recruitment of staff by RBI

377. SHRI N.E. BALARAM :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Reserve Bank of India has imposed fresh curbs on the recruitment of staff in the banks with effect from April, 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has recommended a slight tightening of norms for expansion of manpower in public sector banks in view of the fact that there still exist pockets of surplus staff, particularly in Metropolitan and Urban areas and with a view to keep the productivity in Banks above the likely rise in establishment expenses consequent upon revision of wages etc. of bank employees.

Merger of STC and MMTC

378. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge State Trading Corporption and Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation into one Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Government have decided to set up a Holding Company with State Trading Corporation & Mineral & Metals Trading Corporation becoming direct subsidiaries of the company.

(b) and (c) The formation of a Holding Company will achieve effective coordination in the functioning of the STC and MMTC The combined strength of the two organisations will be used forcefully to active export interests of